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BIBLE STUDIES: Contributions, chiefly from Papyri and Inscriptions, to the History of the Language, the Literature, and the Religion of Hellenistic Judaism and Primitive Christianity. By G. ADOLF DEISSMANN. With an illustration in the text. Authorized Translation, incorporating Deissmann's most recent changes and additions, by ALEXANDER GRIEVE. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1901; New York: Imported by Scribner. Pp. xv + 384. \$3.

WE welcome this book in its English dress, and congratulate ourselves and all users of English upon the increased accessibility of Professor Deissmann's stimulating essays and novel lexicographical studies. *Bibel-Studien* appeared in 1895, and *Neue Bibel-Studien*¹ in 1897, while the author was pastor at Herborn. Both these volumes are embodied in the English edition, and the Herborn pastor is now professor of theology at Heidelberg. Of the essays the most considerable is the one on "Letters and Epistles," which opens the volume. Are the so-called epistles of the New Testament really epistles, *i. e.*, conscious literary productions designed for a public, as were the epistles of Horace or Seneca? Or are they, like the letters of Cicero, true letters, evoked by some definite urgent situation, intended for a certain person or group of persons, and written personally, with no thought of addressing any public or swelling any literature? This is not an idle question. An adequate answer to it is really essential to the valid interpretation of any letter or epistle. Professor Deissmann would make all Paul's acknowledged writings letters; he holds that, while letters of Paul are probably wrought into the pastorals, these are in their present form epistles, as are Hebrews, Peter, James, and Jude. But every interpreter of the New Testament will wish to frame his own answer to this suggestive question.

The bulk of the book is devoted to lexicographical studies, which the author calls "Contributions to the History of the Language of the Greek Bible." By the Greek Bible is meant the Septuagint, as well as the New Testament; indeed, the emphasis is rather on the former. The papyri and inscriptions, as well as not a few by-ways of ancient literature, have been delved into in the effort to illuminate obscure words and phrases, and the results have been generally novel and interesting, and often valuable and conclusive. Students of biblical Greek owe much to these learned and critical researches in Greek contemporary with that of the Bible.

EDGAR J. GOODSPEED.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

¹ See this JOURNAL, Vol. III, pp. 162-4 (January, 1899).